

Physical Restraint Policy

Accessible Schools

In accordance with the SEN and Disability Act 2001 we will take 'reasonable steps' to ensure that disabled children or prospective children are not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared to their non-disabled peers.

This policy operates alongside the school's policies on behaviour, special needs, anti-bullying, equal opportunities and child protection.

In line with the Holbeach Mission Statement, we are committed to ensuring that all our pupils and staff are able to work in a supportive and caring environment, demonstrating a mutual respect, so that teaching and learning can take place in order to maximise a child's potential.

In the rare circumstances that it becomes appropriate to use physical restraint, it will be used as an act of care and not punishment and staff will follow the guidelines outlined below.

Circumstances When Physical Restraint Might Be Appropriate

- Where action is necessary in self-defence or because there is an imminent risk of injury to persons or of significant damage to property.
- Where a pupil attacks another pupil or a member of staff.
- Where a child absconds from a class or tries to leave the school, in circumstances where that child could be at risk if not kept in the classroom or school.

Staff will need to rely on their professional judgement about when it is right to intervene. It will be necessary to balance the level and duration of their intervention against the seriousness and likely consequences of the incident.

Written Consent

Where a pupil has a serious, long-term behaviour problem, the school will seek written consent from parents/legal guardians. This will state that they are in agreement that their child may need restraining in certain circumstances where they are a danger to themselves, to others or they are damaging property.

What Staff Will Do Before and During Any Physical Intervention

- If possible call another adult to witness and support you.
- Remain calm and attempt to calm the child.
- Use a range of non-physical interventions aimed at calming or defusing situations in order to prevent further escalation. These might include:
 - continue to speak and listen to the pupil(s)
 - employing an appropriate level of eye contact during any dialogue
 - diverting, distracting, cajoling or humouring, where appropriate

- reasoning with and offering choices to the child(ren)

If possible an adult should not intervene in an incident without help. For example, when dealing with a physically large child or with a group of children, or if the adult believes he or she may be at risk of injury, the adult should remove other children who may be at risk and summon assistance from a colleague or colleagues, or where necessary phone the police. The adult should inform the child (ren)) that help is on the way. Until help arrives the adult should continue to defuse the situation orally and prevent it from escalating.

Whilst physically intervening, staff will:

- engage the child with a familiar adult
- use the minimum amount of force needed to achieve the desired outcome
- tell the child that physical restraint will stop as soon as it is no longer necessary
- continue to use a range of non-physical interventions aimed at calming or diffusing situations in order to prevent further escalation, as above
- avoid contact with breasts, bottoms and genital areas.

Ways in Which Staff May Use Reasonable Force

Whilst there is no legal definition of reasonable force, DfES Circular 10/98 advises that *'the degree of force employed must be in proportion to the circumstances of the incident and the seriousness of the behaviour or the consequences it is intended to prevent'*.

A potentially dangerous situation for a child or children may involve staff in:

- physically interposing between children
- blocking a child's path
- holding
- pushing
- pulling
- leading a child by the hand or arm
- shepherding a child away by placing a hand in the centre of the back
- using more restrictive holds (in extreme circumstances)

The use of physical force is unlawful if the circumstances do not warrant it. Physical force cannot be justified in a situation that could be resolved without force, for example to prevent a pupil from committing a trivial misdemeanour.

Staff that are permitted to use reasonable force to control or restrain pupils:

Section 550A of the Education Act 1996 permits adults who have lawful charge or control of pupils to use reasonable force to control or restrain them. These include:

- teachers
- learning mentors
- teaching assistants
- midday meal supervisors
- other pupils who may be working with children either on the school premises or accompanying them on out of school activities e.g. field trips or on school journeys **who have been authorised by the head teacher.**

Any member of staff who is unhappy about handling a child, will whenever possible, not be required to do so.

Training

Our school will ensure that a copy of this policy will be given to all permanent and long term supply staff and fully explained to them.

Our school aims to identify, address and review the training needs of school staff, with a view to developing a shared awareness of:

- how and when to intervene
- how to prevent, defuse and/or resolve disputes, including the appropriate of anger management, de-escalation and conflict resolution skills and techniques.

Appropriate training will be available for all staff in line with the school's policy and guidelines.

Planning for the Needs of Individual Children

Our school aims to identify, in consultation with parents/carers, any children whose behaviour is considered more likely to require a physical or restraining intervention or response, and to consider the needs of those pupils in relation to:

- any individual medical, social, behavioural, learning or cultural factors
- any Individual Education Plans (IEPs), Pastoral Support Programmes or Personal Education Plans in place for the pupil

Other Physical Contact with Children

Our school believes that some use of appropriate, positive contact with children can contribute to its development of a safe and friendly school. Some physical contact may be necessary or unavoidable when staff are working with:

- younger children who may need encouraging or guiding
- children with special needs who may need physical prompts or help
- children requiring first aid
- children receiving coaching in sport or as part of another curriculum activity
- children in distress

Our staff will make professional and sensitive judgements about the nature and extent of their physical contact with pupils. We will have particular regard for cultural sensitivities and gender differences, for the needs of adolescent pupils and for those who may be particularly vulnerable following previous trauma or abuse.

Record-Keeping

Our school will keep a record of all incidents where physical restraint has been necessary. This written record will be completed within one working day following the incident and discussed with the Head Teacher or nominated person who will also decide how and when to report the incident to the pupil's parents/carers. The adult involved may seek guidance from a senior colleague and/or their Trade Union representative before filling in their report. If the incident included a physical or verbal assault on an adult or another child the LA's accident reporting form CS1/CS2 will also be completed. We will discuss the incident with any children or staff who were present and, where appropriate, collect a written account from them. In line with our commitment to working with parents, we aim to maintain an open dialogue for the duration of relevant process which may follow the incident.

Complaints

Complaints following a dispute about the use of force by an adult should, in the first instance, be referred to the Head Teacher. This will generally result in an investigation, which will take account of the written or verbal reports which have been collected. Where disputes cannot be resolved informally within the school, complaints should be pursued in accordance with the school's complaints procedures.

Implementation

The Head Teacher is responsible for:

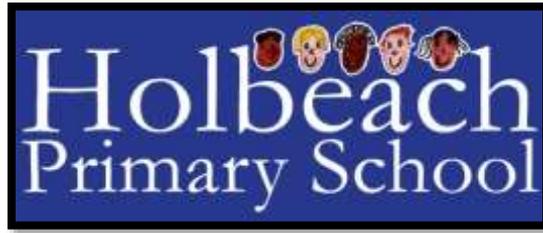
1. Ensuring that all the staff are familiar with Lewisham LA guidelines and the school policy.
2. Ensuring that all relevant staff have received training in non-physical interventions in order to reduce the need for physical restraint.
3. Ensuring that named personnel have received training in physical restraint techniques.
4. Monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the school's policy.

Holbeach Primary School

Policy on the Use of Physical Restraint

Guidelines for short-term and casual staff and other adults authorised by the Head Teacher to work with children at Holbeach Primary School

- Physical restraint must never be used as a punishment.
- It should only be used if there is an immediate danger to pupils, staff or school property.
- It must only be used if other strategies have failed.
- Force must be of minimum strength and duration.
- Send for help from the Executive Headteacher, Head of School or senior teacher as soon as you can.
- If restraint is necessary always handle a child appropriately.
- Talk to the pupil; explain that restraint will cease as soon as they calm down.
- Keep yourself and other pupils safe – it might be better to remove other pupils rather than try to restrain the child causing the disruption.
- Do not put yourself at risk by confronting pupils who are bigger/stronger than you, who are armed or who otherwise pose a threat to your safety and others.
- All incidents involving the restraint of a pupil must be reported to the Head of School. Seek advice from a senior colleague and/or your Trade Union representative.
- If an assault has occurred Form CS1/2 should also be completed. This is available from the Senior Administrative Officer (SAO).



Physical Restraint Policy

Signed:

Chair of Governors:..... (please print name)

Signed:

Headteacher: (please print name)

Date of Policy: July 2020

Date of Review: July 2023